

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION ON KOREA AT STATE DEPARTMENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT ON ARREST OF CHRISTIAN
LEADERS PASSED TO DEPARTMENT OFFICER ON MARCH 8 (SEPTEL).

QUOTE: STATEMENT ON ARREST OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN
SOUTH KOREA

WHEREAS,

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE PROTEST OF CONSCIENCE OF
THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN SEOUL ON MARCH 1, KOREAN INDE-
PENDENCE DAY.

WHEREAS,

THE SIGNED STATEMENT BRAVELY DEFIES THE EXISTING TYRANNY
BY CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF THOSE UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED
AND FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF THE DICTATOR PARK
CHUNG HEE. IT ALSO ASKS FOR THE END TO THE STATE OF
EMERGENCY DECREE AND FOR THE RESTORATION OF FREEDOM OF
SPEECH, ASSEMBLY AND PRESS. THE STATEMENT WAS READ AND
WITNESSED BY OVER 700 PEOPLE AT SEOUL'S CATHOLIC

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CATHEDRAL.

WHEREAS,

WE DEPLORE THE ARREST AND DISAPPEARANCE OF 24 INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SIGNING OR RELEASING THIS STATEMENT SUCH AS

HAM SUK HAN, QUAKER LEADER

MUN TONG WAHAN, PRESBYTERIAN LEADER

LEE OO CHUNG, CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

REV. YUN BAN UNG, PROTESTANT MINISTER

THEREFORE,

WE CALL UPON OUR CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TO SEEK AN IMMEDIATE ACCOUNTING FROM THE PARK REGIME AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, AND AS TO THE REASON FOR THEIR ARREST AND DETENTION.

WE URGE OUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO RECOGNIZE THIS PLEA FOR DEMOCRACY BY PERSUADING THE PARK GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE IMMEDIATELY THESE INDIVIDUALS.

FINALLY, WE STRONGLY DEMAND THAT, UNLESS ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE RELEASED AND PARK CHUNG HEE STEPS DOWN, OUR CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT SHOULD STOP ALL AID THAT MAINTAINS THE POWER OF THIS DICTATOR AND HIS REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT, AND SHOULD BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALL PARTIES FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL U.S. TROOPS AND FOR AN END TO THE STATE OF HOSTILITIES.

DATE: MARCH 8, 1976

SIGNED:

NORTH AMERICAN COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA
CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED, WASHINGTON AREA HUMAN RIGHTS
TASK FORCE

THE DEMOCRATIC KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS, WASHINGTON,
D.C. CHAPTER

SOUTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, SEATTLE-TACOMA-
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

CATHOLIC PEACE FELLOWSHIP, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK
MICHIGAN COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA
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MARYKNOLL FATHERS, JUSTICE & PEACE
ECUMENICAL CENTER, PORTLAND, OREGON
URBAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION, CHICAGO.

UNQUOTE.

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